

2007 Regional Transportation Plan Frequently Asked Questions

1) WHAT IS THE HORIZON YEAR FOR THE 2007 RTP?

The horizon year is 2035.

2) WHICH PROJECTS DO I INCLUDE?

- Any regionally significant project, regardless of funding source
- Any project that will require federal environmental clearance
- Any project that will be programmed in the RTIP
- Any project that will receive state or federal transportation funds

3) WHAT IS A “REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT” PROJECT?

Regionally significant projects are built on facilities that serve regional transportation needs, including: access to and from the region, major activity centers in the region, major planned developments (e.g., retail malls, sports complexes, etc.), transportation terminals, as well as most terminals themselves. Normally, these projects would also be included in modeling of the metropolitan area's transportation network, which covers all principal arterial highways and fixed guideway transit facilities that offer alternatives to regional highways.

4) MY PROJECT IS IN THE RTIP; DOES IT NEED TO BE IN THE RTP?

The spreadsheet represents RTP “Plan” projects, which are those projects above and beyond the RTIP. However, if the RTIP does not include full funding for every phase of the project, the additional funding should be listed in the RTP Plan spreadsheet. Increases to RTIP project costs over 10 percent or programming of additional phases that are not in the RTP will require an RTP amendment before the RTIP can be amended. RTP amendments are not a common occurrence.

5) WHERE CAN I FIND A COPY OF MY RTIP PROJECTS?

A complete listing of the DRAFT 2006 RTIP is on the SANBAG website with the 2007 RTP Development Materials at http://www.sanbag.ca.gov/planning/regional_rtp.html. Contact Andrea Zureick at azureick@sanbag.ca.gov to have an agency-specific RTIP listing emailed to you.

6) WHY IS SO MUCH DETAILED INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR LONG RANGE PROJECTS?

The project limits, cost, fund sources, and schedule are all necessary for SCAG to assess the RTP's financial constraint and regional emissions analysis. These are both part of the federally required conformity determination.

7) DOES IT MATTER IF I COMBINE PROJECTS?

If you plan to implement a project in phases or segments, it is best to list the project in segments in the RTP. Combining projects can make tracking project cost consistency between the RTP and TIP more difficult. In addition, it could complicate the transportation modeling, as we would have one completion date for the entire project in the RTP, but then multiple completion dates for the TIP. If you know how you plan to segment a project for programming and implementation, then it would be better to do the same for the RTP.

8) WHY HAS SANBAG ADDED A NOTE TO DELETE MY 2004 RTP PROJECT?

SANBAG has made an effort to integrate the recently completed SANBAG Nexus Study with the 2004 RTP. Where a 2004 RTP project was also included in the Nexus Study, that has been noted and the cost has been updated to be consistent with the Nexus Study. Where a project was included in the SANBAG Nexus Study, but not the 2004 RTP, the project has been added to the RTP list. Where a 2004 RTP project was not included in the Nexus Study, a note has been added to delete the project from the RTP because any project in the urbanized area that is not in the Nexus Study will not be eligible to receive federal transportation funds from SANBAG. If the project sponsor expects to receive state or federal funds from some other source or if the project is regionally significant, the project should not be deleted from the RTP.

9) WHAT YEAR SHOULD BE THE BASIS FOR THE COST ESTIMATE?

The cost estimate should be in 2005 \$. The 2004 RTP project costs are currently in 2002 \$ and the SANBAG Nexus Study project costs are in 2004 \$. As was discussed at the May 8, 2006 CTP TAC, SANBAG Staff has proposed to use the Caltrans Construction Items Index for inflating Nexus Study project costs to current year dollars. The corresponding inflation factor for the 2004-2005 fiscal year is 24.10%. SANBAG chose this index because it is the only inflation index that is specific to the unique characteristics of the California transportation construction industry. This will be discussed in more detail at the CTPTAC meeting on June 12, 2006.